Dublin June 13. 1863

Dear Mr May

About a week ago Professor Cairnes was obliged to leave home for Aix les Bains in Savoy to seek for medical aid on behalf of a Mr Hunt by a bolt from his horse. Before he left he handed me £7.10 on behalf of the Freedmen and Liberty from several members of his family. I also got a few days since 10/6 from Sarah J. Clementsha, Preston, England, for the Standard which is to be sent to her address as soon as possible. She thinks there is something due by some anti-slavery friends in Preston on account of the Standard - but she does not know for certain, nor even if it is my province to take it. I am truly glad to hear that the Standard is so well attended for such a length of time. Nothing has surprised me more in your struggle than the wonderful resources which appear to be at the command of both sides, greatly preponderating of course on your side & therefore more likely to be eventually victorious. The South are at least apparently united as one man or if there be any disaffection to their object it is not even put down with a high

and — which at the South the traitors are numerous and above board, swarming over the land like the frogs into the Egyptian kneading troughs. I have long felt the truth that Wendell Phillips expressed in one of his late speeches that great reverses & great sufferings & humiliations were needed to compel many of the northern people to be willing to let the people go. If a quite true as was mentioned in the last standard what Rev. Mr Conway stated that there are multitudes in England who are earnestly anti slavery & who yet have no expectation that the South can be effectually kept down to the advantage of the North — that is that they have shown a spirit which would make them a plague to you, & that also the evils that would result from their separate national existence would be less than to have them as part of your body politic. This sends on the whole my own feeling. You cannot detach the emancipated slaves without dishonesty & this you should do if you allowed the Slaveholders to separate from within the limits which Cairnes has suggested, that is, the six Cotton States on this side of the Mississippi. Much as I lamented the obstinate prejudices of the more ignorant northern democrats against the admitting the negroes to help the nation in any way, I cannot much wonder seeing there is not one in 100 of the Irish Catholics who would not prefer the temporal interests of the Pope to the liberty & happiness of the 22 millions of Italians.

It has long been my opinion that the Catholics (Celtic) Irish have very little appreciation of constitutional liberty — and I never wonder at any thing they say or do in America.

I did know whether you wish candidly I believe — but it is a fact that I am looked upon as an altogether heathen in my conversation & sympathies. Many abler & better people than I am are much less so. Both their the general opinion is that England is acting a strictly neutral part. That the supply of warlike stores of the lightest kind & of small arms to either party the Government could not effectually prevent — that if they tried to keep one side they should also keep the other side from getting them — that far more half of the substantial aid has gone to the North than to the South — that the Alabama & the rest of the rebel navy have nothing to do with them. I think in the case of the Alabama we were fairly warned & our Government should have stepped in before — but I think they are made awake now. But I fear I cant tell you what people here say without implying what would not be correct that I agree with them. It is at any rate certain that the greatest sufferers on this side of the Atlantic are just those whose friends would not wish to see suffers from the results of the rebellion & they are also those who wish the North well & have no power to prevent those acts which have called North against

I have I believe repeatedly told you that if I had been in your place I should have acted as you have acted in respect to this war — the only reserve in my mind is that I doubt your tactics in the change of language ~~at~~ which the ~~abolitionists~~ abolitionists have adopted. I don't see how a abolitionist can in <u>any</u> <u>case</u> become a fighter. I am puzzled to understand how W. L. G. & H. C. W. square up matters with their own former principles. Nevertheless I respect them as greater & better men than I am & I would be as ready to welcome them as ever though perhaps with a feeling as if they were not so much above the level of ordinary mortals.

Could you tell me any thing of John Brown's family at North Elba — & will you not be kind to say how your soldier son is getting on

I enclose a letter to New York which you will oblige me by forwarding. Also a letter from Alford about some business affairs.

I have just read the Life of J. J. Hoffman by his child with great delight — for the second time. What a gifted fellow he was.

With kindest regards to your family I remain yours ever truly

Richard Webb

MS. B1.6 v.15, p.99